LETTER

TO

CHARLES GREY, ESQ.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

A

LETTER

TO

CHARLES GREY, ESQ.

ON HIS

PARLIAMENTARY CONDUCT,

RESPECTING

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

PRINCE OF WALES.

IN WHICH ARE SOME REMARKS ON

"A LETTER TO THE PRINCE OF WALES, ON A SECOND APPLICATION TO PARLIAMENT."

AND LIKEWISE ON THE

"OBSERVATIONS."

"May the Marriage of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales,
"afford the Comfort of ſeeing the Royal Family numerous, as,
"I thank God, it is, ſtill riſing up in a third [and now we
"hope in a fifth] Generation! A Family which I moſt ſin-
"cerely wiſh may be as immortal as thoſe Liberties and that
"Conſtitution which it came to maintain!"

Mr. Pitt's [the late Earl of Chatham's] Maiden Speech, April, 1736.

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LETTER, &c.

SIR,

TO a reforming diſpoſition, there cannot be a greater luxury of infernal gratification, than attacking, in parliament, any one of the Royal Family. Every wound thus given to monarchy, may, perhaps, contribute more to the cauſe of reform, if artfully expoſed, than a ſcore of inſurrections, or the diſtribution of fifty thouſand Jacobin pamphlets among the lower orders throughout the three kingdoms.

All the numerous counter-balancing virtues of the character ſo ſlandered, ſerve for nothing in the ſcale, when his amiable foibles, only, are to be magnified and diſtorted; in order to excite invenomed animadverſion, and tinge his reputation with an illiberal obloquy, originating, ſolely, in the moſt vindictive, and the moſt factious motives.

As ſome look at the ſun's eclipſe through the medium of ſmoaked glaſs, ſo do the reformers view, with a jaundiced eye, the juvenile ſpecks that dim, for a moment, the luſtre of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales. In the midſt of this malignant and deſigning group, we deſcry you, Sir, as one of the unmanly chiefs; and the hollow ſympathy which you lately and are ſtill diſplaying in parliament, for the embarraſſments of an amiable and generous Prince, will not ſoon be forgotten.

Had you been a ſtaunch and inflexible patriot, advanced in years, in whom all the paſſions, but thoſe of an over-rigorous avarice for the public welfare had ſubſided: had you been what is ſtiled a country gentleman; that is, a conſcientious member of parliament, whoſe chief buſineſs, independent of all party, is, he conceives, to guard the public purſe from plunder, and the conſtitution of Great Britain from innovation:

Had you been a ſteady ſupporter of the indiſpenſable prerogatives of the crown, and of the people's real and moſt beneficial privileges:—Had you been the avowed enemy of all that intriguing phalanx of diſappointed and artful men, falſely ſelf-named *Friends of the People:*—Had you been the determined foe of *Gallic Reform*, and of all its profligate and low imitators in this country:—Had you been only one of the members for Northumberland, inſtead

ſtead of one of thoſe at Brookes's, and the Crown and Anchor, for certain purpoſes:

Had you never known what it was to be a huſband, or what it was to commit a venial error: Had you never taſted the luſcious ſweets of plenty, and enjoyed the ſtation of rank and ſplendour: in any of thoſe caſes, Sir, your petulant and unbecoming ſpeeches againſt his Royal Highneſs might have been ſomewhat palliated by good intention; becauſe ſpringing from ſtrong conſtitutional motives, although they would be found both illiberal and impolitic.

But who are you, Sir, that could not help feeling the moſt unpleaſant ſenſations at his Royal Highneſs's dilemma; yet would not, becauſe the taſk was diſagreeable, ſhrink from doing your duty? Are you not a young man, taken ſome years ago into the bankrupt firm of oppoſition for your tiny loquacity, and your pert preſumption? Are you not a ſtripling, that, from your family connections and your own voluble effrontery, were appointed to ſtand behind the oppoſition counter in the Commons, and ſell off their rotten wares, with leſs ſuſpicion than any of the old partners, whoſe tricks had been ſo often detected, that the public could place no confidence in their aſſertions?

Yet with no other talent than plodding; with no other genius than a prompt and overbearing loquacity; and from whoſe ſapient tongue, neither bril-

liancy of thought, nor novelty of argument ever yet condeſcended to emanate; ſtill, with only theſe ſhallow requiſites, ſpurred on by the adulation of faction, do you, Sir, contrive to make a flippant noiſe in the grand ſenate of the nation!

With nothing of the all-powerful Pitt's reſiſtleſs ſtream of eloquence, which, like the Miſſiſſippi, bears down, with increaſing force, every thing that would oppoſe its overpowering rapidity! With nothing of Dundas's equal tide of eloquence, which, like the moſt loved of all the ocean's ſons, that flows by St. Stephen's walls, is,

> " Though deep, yet clear, though gentle, yet not dull;
> " Strong, without rage, without o'erflowing, full!"

With not one drop of the declamatory torrent of Fox, that, like the deep and rapid falls of Niagara, overwhelms every unſuſpicious bark that is drawn too near its vortex! With not one ſpark of the eloquent dramatized intemperance of Sheridan, that, like the claſſic caſcade of Tivoli, facinates all beholders with its ſublime burſts, and its beautiful meanders; leading us into the moſt romantic labyrinth!

You, Sir, have nothing of the foam of their eloquence to boaſt, but only ſome of the little gurgling noiſe that is made in their eddy. But ſhould ſome of your friends flatter you, that yours reſembles a caſcade, it can only be like the artificial one at Vauxhall,

hall, formed of Corniſh ore; that certainly makes a very great noiſe, and a very ſtrong impreſſion on many of the learned ſpectators, who view it with the eye of admiration and rapture.

Indeed you have very few, if any, of the eſſentials that compoſe a good orator, or a ſhrewd ſtateſman. You have all Lord Lauderdale's buſtle, and all his pertneſs, without being equally ſkilled in his moſt amazing knowledge of the pens and ink of office, and the topography of French territory. In ſome points, however, you are equal; in a true knowledge of the French mind, and of the real intereſts of the Britiſh empire.

And, Sir, however you may flatter yourſelf that you can bias the public, as the young partner in the old firm, that was formerly the trencher friends, and now the ungrateful opponents, nay perſecutors, of the *Royal Timon*; there is both loyalty and good-ſenſe in the generous mind of the people at large, to ſpurn the inſidious ſchemes of certain reformers, that would make his philanthropic embarraſſments a factious vehicle for royal defamation.

Inſtead of meanly and cruelly endeavouring to render his Royal Highneſs unpopular, when the torch of Hymen had ſcarce lighted him to the altar; what, Sir, ought to have been your conduct, as a youth lately married yourſelf, on this ſolemn occaſion? No difference of ſentiment on political topics ought to have

have drawn you into ſuch an indecorous ſtep, as, firſt to join the general voice of approbation at the royal marriage, and not at the ſame time have enabled his Royal Highneſs, by adminiſtering a ſweet oblivious antidote, to wipe off all incumbrance, and all retroſpect; that he might enjoy all the felicity of his new ſtate, pure and unalloyed by the rancour of hollow friendſhip and commiſerating malignity!

Had his Royal Highneſs patronized your wretched Reform plan! Had he, by that means, convulſed the public mind! Had he made the crown ſit uneaſy on his father's brow! Had he deprived the friends of the conſtitution of every hope, and himſelf of every future proſpect, to ſway the ſceptre of his anceſtors, in the courſe of nature, with the ſame ſalutary prerogatives as they poſſeſſed, for the general welfare! Had he done all this, his Royal Highneſs, perhaps, would have met with no oppoſition, in the payment of his debts, from your ſide of the Houſe; but, on the contrary, eulogiums would have been poured forth on the laudable foibles of his generous nature, and his innate goodneſs of heart! He, who could neither view diſtreſs without ſympathy, nor permit the ingenious artiſt to go unencouraged and unrewarded!

How would you have then declaimed, Sir, about the policy and the abſolute neceſſity of liquidating every

every demand that had occurred before his nuptials; and have appealed to the feelings of all, whether, when a youth that had been indiſcreet, from the overflowings of a feeling heart, on his entering into a ſtate of wedlock with an object that all approved, ſhould not have every impediment to his conjugal happineſs removed, and every former diſagreeable idea eraſed from his memory, on ſuch a joyful event! An event that, on the ſalutary conduct of Parliament, now depend, perhaps, not only the coming felicity of the Prince, but the ſafety and the credit of the monarchy itſelf, in a future reign.

But becauſe his Royal Highneſs, like the Duke of Portland, and other real patriots, detached himſelf from your party, when it became a reforming faction; the Britiſh Timon, with the beſt of hearts, is to be goaded by every reformer within and without the doors of Parliament, as if he had committed one of the moſt enormous actions againſt the liberties of his country! He is to be hunted down in every Jacobin print, and by every reforming projector that can write or ſpeak; for no other reaſon, whatever may be the pretext, than that he refuſed to league with a band of men, who wiſh to get into power, like Orleans, Fayette, and Mirabeau, by convulſing the conſtitution of their country!

Oh,

Oh, ye who ſincerely love the monarchy of Britain, watch with a moſt jealous eye the deſigns of thoſe who are now tearing, by piece meal the character of your future Sovereign! A Prince, whoſe only foible has been the generous diſpoſition of his nature! A Prince, Sir, of whom many of your friends uſed to exclaim, at the doors of Carlton Houſe:

" Come, ſhall we in, and taſte Lord Timon's bounty?
" He, ſure, outgoes the very heart of kindneſs:
" He pours it out. Plutus, the god of gold,
" Is but his ſteward. No meed but he repays
" Seven-fold above itſelf. No gift to him
" But breeds the giver a return exceeding
" All uſe of quittance. *The nobleſt mind he carries*
" *That ever govern'd man!*"

It is impoſſible, indeed, to view your conduct, and that of ſeveral of your confederates, in regard to his Royal Highneſs's incumbrances, without feeling the utmoſt indignation. Becauſe he will not come into your political wake, you would wiſh to drift him upon the bleak ſhores of Cornwall or Wales, in an ignoble exile! You would wiſh to drive him, and his royal conſort, from the capital, for ſeveral years, to liquidate certain demands, which the majority of the creditors, I can venture to affirm, would not wiſh to be liquidated by any ſuch harſh or rigorous ſteps, as to ſee his Royal Highneſs

Highneſs, ſhorn of his beams, a recluſe in any of the diſtant counties; for how could he retain his ſplendour upon 60,000 l. per annum in the vicinity of the metropolis?

It was well remarked by Mr. Fox, that the duty of Parliament to the Prince of Wales, and to the Public, was the ſame; for, in conſulting his dignity, they conſulted the public intereſt. Pity it is, however, that he did not at the ſame time really conſult the dignity of his Royal Highneſs, when he recommended that he ſhould, with his lovely bride, retire upon 60,000 l. per annum for ſeveral years! How can Mr. Fox, who owned that it was neceſſary to ſupport the ſplendour of royalty, as an eſſential part of the conſtitution, reconcile the curtailment of more than half of his Royal Highneſs's income, as contributing to the maintenance of that neceſſary ſplendour?

We are yet to learn, Sir, if ever Mr. Fox regularly devoted any part of his own income to the ſtrict and rapid liquidation of his debts; much leſs the greateſt portion of it. And therefore the ſtory of the frail lady, which he told, that hoped to atone for her own faults, by her marked diſapprobation of them in others, and which he applied to his Royal Highneſs, can never be admired, when coming from his lips, either for its candour or liberal aptitude.

All that ſpeech of Mr. Fox, indeed, was more like the trimming orations of Lord Lanſdowne, teeming ſo much with the inconſiſtency of affirmation and negation, than the clear and manly ſentiments of one who was truly grateful, as he ſaid, for the perſonal notice and kindneſs with which his Royal Highneſs had ſometimes honoured him. How he, who was never very urgent about paying any debt, could have the front to affirm, that the people would ſee no atonement for paſt imprudence in his Royal Highneſs's paying 25,000 l. per annum towards the reduction of his debts, is really paſt all the comprehenſion of every plain-thinking man!

Can this be believed from the mouth of Mr. Fox? He, who for many, many years was reported to pay no creditors at all, although often wallowing in the ſpoils of Newmarket and Brookes's! And yet he, of all men living, will not allow, that nearly one-fifth of the Prince's income being regularly appropriated to his creditors, that the public could ſee no atonement for paſt imprudence, by ſuch a ſacrifice! The inſinuation was as unjuſt as it was ſplenetic, illiberal, and ungenerous.

I have no doubt, Sir, but the creditors of the oppoſition at large would deem themſelves very happy, were they to receive all their demands, by a gradual diſcharge, from one-fifth of all their incomes being ſtrictly and conſtantly appropriated to that purpoſe,

purpoſe. And the public, as well as their creditors, would, in that caſe, confeſs that they had made every honourable atonement for any paſt imprudencies of which they had been guilty.

But is it not ſomewhat aſtoniſhing, Sir, that moſt of you gentlemen of the oppoſition feel more for the creditors of the Heir Apparent, than either they do themſelves, or than your party do for their own creditors! I am confident, that if your friends ſhewed but half that ſolicitude for the quick diſcharge of their own debts, which they have lately ſhewn for thoſe of his Royal Highneſs, they would make a very numerous, and a very patient body of men, very happy indeed!

But there was a time, Sir, when your friends, like Timon's trencher-friends, were not by any means ſo anxious:

" Then they would *ſmile*, and *fawn* upon *his* DEBTS,
" And take down *th' intereſt* in their *glutt'nous* MAWS!"

Mr. Fox admitted, that the ſplendour of royalty was not only neceſſary to monarchy, but to all ſtates, even to a republic; and that it ſhould extend beyond the monarch to thoſe around him, and brighten the circle within which he ſtood. Such being granted, he endeavours however to do this axiom away, in the pure ſtile of Lord Lanſdowne, by admitting it only as a general propoſition, ſubject to all the modifica-

 tions

tions, or reforms, of times and circumſtances. And of ſuch modifications, owing to certain politic, and not public, reaſons, he and his friends, Sir, arrogate to themſelves the fitneſs, both as to the period, as well as to the occaſion!

Were the revenue of the Heir Apparent not founded upon precedent, nor the neceſſity of the ſplendour of royalty admitted:—Had the ſettlement of 113,000l. per annum, which his royal grandfather enjoyed fifty years ago, been ever objected to as too large: Did the annual revenue of his Royal Highneſs riſe or fall with times and circumſtances, like lands or ſtocks:—Then, indeed, Mr. Fox might have talked of modifications; and you, Sir, ſpeak as you did, of reducing the Prince's ſplendour to a ſcale with the general means.

But as this is not the caſe, your compariſon of him to a perſon in private life, curtailing his expences to his means, is no ways applicable to his Royal Highneſs; who, however flouriſhing the country, obtains not a guinea more than his ſettled revenue; whereas, a private gentleman, if his eſtate increaſe in value, enjoys every ſhilling of the additional income.

Now moſt of the eſtates in Britain have increaſed their rent-roll to treble, or at leaſt double to what they were half a century ago, when Frederick Prince of Wales enjoyed 113,000l. per annum by univerſal

conſent;

conſent; while you would attempt to fix the indiſpenſable ſplendour of the Heir Apparent to that former pittance, without any increaſe whatever!

Is this fair? Is this loyal? Is this either honourable or juſt? It can only be ſolved, however, by what you ſaid in another part of your ſpeech, Sir, that "you wiſhed to reduce thoſe trappings of ſtate," the ſplendour of royalty. As this is certainly, therefore, a branch of your plan of reform, every one can perceive whether you are any thing more than the mouth advocate of monarchy, and whether or not democracy is not ſomewhat rooted in your breaſt.

Surely, if the dignity and ſplendour of the ſtation of the Heir Apparent is to be kept up in a ſimilar ſtile to what it was fifty years ſince, which all but two or three reformers in parliament agree to, his income ought to be at leaſt doubled, if we are to judge by the comparative value of money, or even by that ſtaple which regulates every other article of life, the price of wheat, in the two different æras.

Fifty years ago, Sir, the beſt wheats were from 28s. to 29s.—now they are from 68s. to 70s. This is more than double. Another article of life, coals, was then from 24s. to 26s. per chaldron—now they are, on the yearly average, double. Butcher's meat was then from 2d. to 3d. per lb.—now it is from

from 6d. to 9d. Thus the three great eſſentials of coals, wheat, and butcher's meat, are raiſed in fifty years to double the price. And all liquors, whether manufactured by fermentation or diſtillation, whether home or foreign made, bear fully as great a proportion of increaſe. Beſides all this, workmen and ſervants' wages too, and many ſorts of apparel, furniture, and conveniencies of life, have had at leaſt a ſimilar riſe; while you, Sir, in the wonderful ebullition of your reforming loyalty, would tie his Royal Highneſs down to the old annual ſum of 100,000 l. which could, by no means, go a greater length in 1795, than 40,000 l. did in 1745!

After having proved, Sir, that all the articles of life are at leaſt doubled during the two different periods; the next thing to be conſidered is, the ability of the people to pay a much greater ſum now, to maintain the ſplendour of royalty, than they were enabled to do half a century ago. If the national debt be increaſed to quintuple its former amount, the means are not only likewiſe increaſed in a much greater proportion, to pay the intereſt, but to defray the vaſt additional expence of Goverment: While the great body of the people, at the ſame time, are much better cloathed, much better fed, much better lodged, and can afford to indulge themſelves in much greater luxuries of every kind than their anceſtors could in thoſe days; when they, not only without murmur,

murmur, but with all the liberality that belonged to the old Engliſh loyal character, allowed his Royal Highneſs's grandfather 100,000 l. per annum, beſides the revenues ariſing from the duchy of Cornwall.

The people, Sir, are now much better able, even in the midſt of an expenſive, but indiſpenſable war, to contribute 200,000 l. per annum to the ſupport of their Royal Highneſſes, than they were fifty years ago to pay one-third of the ſum to a ſimilar purpoſe.

As every candid perſon, upon the leaſt reflection, muſt admit this to be true, what can we think of your paltry extenſion of generoſity, when you ſaid, that it was firſt your intention to have propoſed, that the whole of the Prince's income ſhould amount only to 100,000 l. but as his grandfather had been ſtated to have enjoyed that ſum, in addition to the revenue of the duchy of Cornwall, *you were willing*, in the preſent inſtance, to go all the length of the liberality of former times. You, Sir, were willing! Willing to do what? To grant 13,000 l. per annum more! Oh, what a ſtretch of liberality for a narrow mind, and a cold heart! Oh, what a triumph for a vindictive ſpirit, in condeſcending to allow ſuch a princely addition! Oh, what an exultation for a reformer, to get thus the future Sovereign of Great Britain ſo far within his fangs, as to afford the utmoſt gratification to every republican within the

three

three kingdoms; ſoiling his reputation, and wounding our future hopes, in colouring a noble foible as a groſs crime!

In ſtaining the foible of too great a liberality, with all the odium that can be attached to guilt; and ſo blinding the public eye from viewing the fair ſtate of the queſtion with impartiality, by raiſing the hue and cry of Jacobin papers, Jacobin pamphlets, and Jacobin tongues, againſt theſe juvenile profuſions of an excellent Prince, whoſe only error, if any other than an amiable venial error it can be called, has been, in not living, during the hey-day of the blood, ſtrictly within the too narrow income hitherto allowed him by Parliament, for maintaining the neceſſary ſplendour, as Mr. Fox ſaid, in which all delight!

How different was the conduct of his Royal Highneſs to many of your political friends! Has he not, when they have been oppreſſed, and their name ſlurred by inability to keep their credits, ſaid of ſeveral of them, in the utmoſt perplexity of their embarraſſments, as Timon did?

" *I am not of that feather to ſhake off*
" *My friend, when he moſt needs me!* I do know him
" A gentleman that well deſerves a help,
" Which he ſhall have. *I'll pay the debt, and free him!*
" Being then enfranchis'd, bid him come to me.
" *'Tis not enough to help the feeble up,*
" *But to ſupport him after!*"

Yet,

Yet, Sir, how is his Royal Highneſs now requited? By almoſt every one of you adviſing in Parliament, that it ſhould be recommended to him to retire from that ſplendour, which Mr. Fox acknowledged was ſo neceſſary to monarchy and the national dignity; and ſeclude himſelf from elegant ſociety, in ſome remote province, where he might exiſt in ruſtic comfort, if he could not live in that princely grandeur, in which all delight, and which is ſo eſſential to the true dignity of the empire. Yet, Sir, you would all now drive him, like Timon, beyond the walls of Athens; to make him, who was born to govern millions, a royal miſanthrope! You would force him, to exclaim of you and others, with Timon:

" ——————— Who dares, who dares,
" In purity of manhood, ſtand upright,
" And ſay this man's a flatterer? If one be
" So are they all. For each degree of fortune
" Is ſmooth'd by that below. All is oblique;
" There's nothing level in our curſed natures
" But direct villany. Then be abhorr'd
" All feaſts, ſocieties, and throngs of men!"

It is very impolitic, and even dangerous to monarchy in future, thus to endeavour to convert the milk of human kindneſs into the bitter gall of diſguſt! To wound the feelings of a generous Prince, ſo far as to impel him to ſequeſter himſelf from the elegant haunts of man, for actions that diſplayed

only the extremes of a moſt beneficent heart! To blight all the excellent, but, perhaps, over-luxuriant bloſſom of his nature, when the philanthropic fruit was juſt beginning to ſet! If there be one error that is more excuſable, in a youthful Prince, than any other, Sir, it is a munificent profuſion. The heart that expanded to relieve the wants of the circles that hovered around Carleton Houſe, will never be contracted in promoting the eaſe and affluence of a great people, whenever that moment arrives, in the due courſe of time, in which he is called upon to aſſume the imperial ſceptre.

Every unprejudiced man of ſenſe acknowledges, that there is not a more accompliſhed gentleman than his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales; whether we conſider the talents, the virtues, or the graces, that he poſſeſſes. Your political friends have formerly given ſuch ample teſtimonies to theſe truths, that it would be needleſs here to recapitulate what is ſo generally known, from their own numerous reports. Although ſome of them, indeed, ſeem now like the painter that daubed a beautiful picture, by ſtealth, when out of employ; in order that he might be ſent for by the owner, to clean that which he himſelf had ſo recently beſpattered and disfigured.

As too great a liberality, therefore, has been his only foible, Sir, or rather too expenſive an ornament for even his Royal Highneſs any longer to wear, without

without ſome ſlight alteration; you ſhould not, even in the iraſcible eagerneſs of placing your ladder of reform againſt his boſom, attempt to ſhake every jewel from his perſon; and endeavour to perſuade him, and the country, that paſte will be as valuable, and as becoming for him to wear, as thoſe brilliants in which, as Mr. Fox ſays, all delight, and which uſed to adorn every former Prince of Wales with ſo radiant and attractive a luſtre.

Although, Sir, you might, perhaps, in your reforming mood, give the preference to Dovey's artificial diamonds for the crown ornaments, in place of thoſe ancient real brilliants in which almoſt all others delight: And though you and ſome of your friends may unfortunately miſlead the public mind for a moment, as to his Royal Highneſs's venial irregularities; I can venture to affirm, that every human being, of common ſenſe, and of a liberal mind, who has either paſt the hey-day of the blood, or is nearly approaching to it; for I do not mean to appeal to thoſe partial and intereſted judges that are now within its vortex—however I might ſingle you out, Sir, as an aſtoniſhing exception—Any one, and almoſt every one of theſe will overlook the foible; and ſome will even admire it, as the harbinger of every excellent principle that royalty can poſſeſs, when the fermentation of the paſſions has ſubſided,

and the heart becomes rarified and exalted by the generous ebullition.

How then muſt every loyal and penetrating mind ſpurn at the baſe attempts of ſome, through the rancour of deſign, and others through the falſe policy of national prudence, that would recommend, perhaps, a twelve years exile from the capital to the royal pair; and the annihilation of that ſplendour, which is ſo eſſentially neceſſary to monarchy, and in which all people ſo much delight!

Thoſe men would treat the Heir Apparent as is done the royal ſucceſſor in Turkey, and other places, by confining him until a demiſe. They would exile him from all thoſe elegant circles of life with which he ought to hold a conſtant communication; inſtead of him and his royal conſort becoming the glaſs of faſhion, the patrons of the arts, and the encouragers of manufactures!

Were the Prince of Wales even a Duke of Bedford, he might exiſt in a garret, like Andrew Marvell; or live in all the penury of old Elwes, if he pleaſed, without any attendants. Were he not of the blood-royal, no houſehold eſtabliſhment, upon any ſcale, would be abſolutely and indiſpenſably neceſſary. But the royal revenue is given him for the purpoſes of national ſplendour; as he is that auguſt perſonage who is ſuppoſed to keep up the honours and hoſpitality of the land. Beſides this, another reaſon

ſon that he is allowed more than any other branches of the royal family, excepting his auguſt ſovereign, is, that as he is the neareſt allied in birth, ſo he ought to be the neareſt in ſplendour to the monarch whom he is to ſucceed; that, by thus being habituated to princely magnificence, the regal ſplendour might not, all at once, burſt upon his underſtanding; and ſo far dazzle him, when he came to the crown, as to make him forget, for a moment, the exalted rank of his new ſituation. This the dignity as well as policy of the country requires; and the ſplendour of the country will ſupport that dignity. But if he is to be ſhorn of his beams by the reformers and diſſenters in parliament, who ſay to him, as Goneril and Regan did to Lear, about the number of his attendants;

" What need you five and twenty, ten, or five!
" ——————— Nay, what needs one?"

All the true friends of the conſtitution, as well as his Royal Highneſs, may exclaim with Lear;

" Oh, reaſon not the need! our baſeſt beggars
" Are in the pooreſt things ſuperfluous:
" Allow not nature more than nature needs,
" Man's life is cheap as beaſts!"

If once this doctrine is inculcated among the million, that the royal family ought to be diminiſhed in

in its ſplendour, and live like private gentlemen, you, ariſtocratic democrats, Sir, are not aware of the ruin you might ultimately bring upon your own heads. The maſs will reaſon, in that caſe, thus:—That if their ſuperiors admit that the royal family ſhould live like common gentlemen, they ſee no reaſon why they ſhould not live like common gentlemen themſelves; and, conſequently, all ranks would become equally miſerable, famiſhed, and enſlaved as they are now in France!

" —— —— —— —— take but degree away,
" And hark, what diſcord follows!"

It is not more unwiſe, therefore, than unjuſt, Sir, in you, as well as it is inſulting, to ſay, that after his income, and almoſt all his ſplendour was given up, that there would ſtill be a ſufficient proviſion for the eaſe and comfort of *two perſons* in retirement, who had other reſources, to which they might look, than rank and revenue! If, Sir, in ſuch a retirement, he could qualify himſelf by reflection, for the duties of his future ſtation, as you had the effrontery to aſſert, it would, probably, be by making him a miſanthrope, at the ingratitud, illiberality, and callouſneſs of man! And, whenever he came to the throne from ſuch an exile, he muſt be more than man, indeed, if all his milk of human kindneſs, were not curdled by his indignant gall.

gall. No, Sir, he muſt not loſe his magnificence for a moment, unleſs we would wiſh to hazard the ſecurity of the crown in a future reign, and even degrade it now. For ſhould the ſplendour of his Royal Highneſs be eclipſed, the radiance of majeſty will perhaps be, in part, obſcured; as each, in their due orbit, reflects a luſtre on the other.

That ſuch a man as Mr. Curwen, Sir, ſhould talk of the prince "*retiring* to *regain* public confidence," which he has never loſt, but among the reformers, and by their arts, does not ſurprize me. For this Carliſle repreſentative diſcourſed about cheap governments like cheap clothes, when he alledged that monarchy was not the cheapeſt government. It is true that he did not feel himſelf diſpoſed to compare ours with the Rag Fair government of France; but he triumphantly extolled the Monmouth-ſtreet government of America; (almoſt all the laws and conſtitutions of which, however, were given her by Great Britain,) as cheaper by far than ours. I thought that the fatal and dear-bought experience of France had, by this time, ſickened every man of common ſenſe, from running after cheap governments. And when America branches out into various ſtates like Europe, which ſooner or later ſhe will undoubtedly do: or when we ſee her cheap government,

even

even twenty years after Waſhington's death, then we may ſomewhat judge of it, but not till then.—But of all the cheap, ſtrong, durable, eaſy, and becoming conſtitutional habits that ever was faſhioned to fit mankind, and ſhield his perſon from every tempeſt of adverſity and oppreſſion; there has been none ever yet ſhaped, like the admirable one of Great Britain; however much, Sir, you, Mr. Curwen, and others would wiſh to ſhorten its waiſt, and lengthen its pockets; to cabbage all that which you had cut out, as comfortable remnants for your own wear.

I am not aſtoniſhed, therefore, that ſuch as Mr. Curwen, and you, are eager for the princely ſun of royalty to ſet for a few years. But that Mr. Fox ſhould recommend ſuch a ſevere and impolitic mode, as if he had ever retired himſelf, although he had often the opportunity to do it with much greater propriety, is what hurts me much, as his ſympathy is ſtifled by his policy.

Allowing that he had talked, as he ſaid, of the prince as an abſtract and hypothetical perſon for notices, and kindneſſes perſonally beſtowed; this was a ſtrange way of repaying perſonal kindneſs, however, by inſinuating abſtract calumny! It was not unlike Timon's ingrate, Lucullus, who, when his munificent patron was embarraſſed, remarked;

" Alas,

" Alas, a good lord! a noble gentleman 'tis, if he would not " keep ſo good a houſe. Many a time and often I have dined with " him, and told him on't; and come again to ſupper to him, on " purpoſe to have him ſpend leſs, and yet he would embrace no " counſel, take no warning by my coming! *Every man has his* " *fault, and honeſty is his.*"

Mr. Fox moſt abſurdly advanced, that his Royal Highneſs would be degraded, by paying only 25,000l. towards the liquidation of his debts! Is this degrading? To ſecure the payment of the whole ſum, under the faith of an Act of Parliament, and to appropriate nearly one-fifth of his income to their gradual liquidation? By thus diſcharging the debts, yet ſtill retaining four-fifths of his ſplendour, in which all delight, not only for the benefit of trade, but the honour of the Royal Family, and the dignity of a great and flouriſhing empire! Yet this, Sir, in Mr. Fox's idea, is degrading? I ſuppoſe you would both be happy at ſeeing him living only upon the revenues of his Corniſh eſtate, becauſe he does not approve, perhaps, of your plan of reform. There may lie the rub.

But were you ſuffered to begin your demi-Gallic plan, Sir, with the Prince of Wales; perhaps you not aware, that in reforming the palace, ſome of the low reformers might think that the Manſion-houſe was too large; St. Paul's too high; Guild-hall, and the Bank, uſeleſs; the Courts of juſtice

 deteſtible;

deteſtible; the Pariſh Churches, eye-ſores to the new morality; and Wharfs, Ware-houſes, and Counting-houſes, entirely uſeleſs!

While this opinion was gaining a rapid footing in the metropolis, every city, town, borough, and village in the kingdom, would follow the laudable example; and crown the whole work, by a general diviſion of property, and a conſequent reduction of the expenditure of all men of rank; among which you, Sir, would not be ſpared, becauſe you began with reforming Royalty, by a baſe diminution of His Royal Highneſs's income.

But as this will not probably happen, ſo long as the country at large enjoy their preſent liberty and property, under the gentle dominion of the illuſtrious Houſe of Brunſwick; how muſt you have bluſhed, Sir, at the liberal conduct and pointed retorts of your friend Mr. Lambton, in alluſion to your wiſh for his Royal Highneſs condeſcending to gratify your levelling pride, by exiling himſelf from the metropolis.

That gentleman behaved loyal, generous, ſpirited, and proper. He ſaid, like a man, that he was not ſo weak, when a great occaſion called on him, as to ſhrink at breaking through the enchantment of party and connection; and therefore he would own, that Mr. Pitt's propoſition met his ideas, as fully adequate to the dignity and

character

character of the Prince, and the intereſts of the people. While, at the ſame time, he remarked, Sir, that, to keep up your conſiſtency, you ſhould have followed up your motion, by propoſing *to exile his Royal Highneſs from his palace, at once, and diveſt him of every dignity!*

You, and your friends have on all occaſions, this ſeſſions, lugged in the words, *ſtarving poor*, by head and ſhoulders, and croaked about their wants, without making, however, any one motion in parliament for their relief, or doing any one generous act of publicity towards alleviating their diſtreſſes! And, as to your private donations, I ſuppoſe they are of ſo very private a nature, that they can never be divulged by any one diſtreſſed family in the kingdom. The poor may ſay with Timon, of you and all ſuch croakers, that you would

" —— let the famiſh'd fleſh ſlide from the bone,
" Ere thou relieve a beggar!"

The reaſon, therefore, of your mouth pity, without really ſympathiſing for the cravings of that aperture of the poor, is very diſcernable. You want to irritate the lower claſſes againſt government, by perſuading them that adminiſtration was the ſole cauſe of the long and ſevere froſt, which

has given ſome foundation for monopoly to grind and oppreſs them.

His Royal Highneſs could not expect therefore, an increaſe of ſettlement on his marriage, without another oppoſition proſe elegy on the poor, from a ſet of men that really feel as little for their diſtreſſes, as they do for the embarraſſments of the worthy Heir Apparent.

But if ever any one ſtep could obliterate the liberal foible of His Royal Highneſs, in every generous boſom, it was the truly reſpectful and reſigned expreſſions contained in his meſſage to the houſe of commons! When all the neſt of plundering equality is diſpelled, and liberty and property ſhall again enjoy their rights, in perfect ſecurity, the following ſpeech will be, as it is indeed now, univerſally extolled!

" His Royal Highneſs," Mr. Anſtruther was authorized by him to ſay, " was deſirous to acquieſce in whatever might be the ſentiments of the Houſe, both with reſpect to the future regulation of his expenditure, and the appropriation of any part of the income they might think fit to grant him, for the diſcharge of the debt.

" His wiſh, on the occaſion, was intirely to conſult the wiſdom of parliament.

" He was perfectly diſpoſed to acquieſce in whatever

ever abatement of ſplendour they might judge to be neceſſary, from a view of his ſituation.

" He deſired nothing but what the country might cordially be induced to think he ought to to have.

" His Royal Highneſs, in fine, left all matters relative to the regulation of his eſtabliſhment, and the payment of his debts, to the wiſdom and diſcretion of parliament:

" With this aſſurance, that whatever meaſures they adopt, would meet with his hearty concurrence!"

After ſuch a declaration, I wonder how you, Sir, and ſome of your friends, had the unbecoming rancour ſtill to inſiſt, that the meſſage ſhould meet with a poſitive denial! And that becauſe his Royal Highneſs declared he would concur with the meaſures of parliament, you would perſuade the houſe to make him a Royal Wanderer from the metropolis, with his ſplendour extinguiſhed, and his dignity intirely ſunk into that of a plain nobleman, for ten or twelve long years, as Duke of Cornwall, or Earl of Carrick!

Mr. Fox too, that old frail lady, ſaid, that the ſplendour of the prince was better ſupported by dignity of mind, than magnificence and profuſion of expence! Would he had ſhewed a candid dignity of mind on the preſent buſineſs, by way

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of illuſtrating, even in words, what he himſelf could never exemplify in actions! For the too bountiful Heir Apparent has often looked, as if he ſaid to that gentleman and his friends, with Timon,

" Methinks I could deal kingdoms to my friends,
" And ne'er be weary!"

How liberal, on the contrary, have the warm ſupporters of the Monarchy behaved on this occaſion? And how loyally, liberally, and properly, have his Majeſty's Miniſters likewiſe acted to this amiable but perſecuted character!

Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas have ſo peculiarly diſtinguiſhed themſelves in their attachment to the true intereſts of his Royal Highneſs, and thoſe of the country, which Mr. Fox, while he owns that they are inſeparable, wiſhes, however, in a great degree to ſeparate; that every friend to the conſtitution applauds their conduct.

But, as to the demeanour of you, Sir, and others, it may be fitly compared, indeed, to that of Timon's friends!

" Whoſe thankleſs natures—oh, abhorred ſpirits!
" Not all the whips of heaven are large enough——
" What! to him!
" Whoſe ſtar-like nobleneſs gave life and influence
" To their whole being? I am rapt, and cannot
" Cover the monſtrous bulk of their ingratitude
" With any ſize of words!"

Before

Before I touch upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer's dutiful and patriotic behaviour to the Prince of Wales on his marriage, it will reflect hereditary credit on him to obſerve, that by ſuch a conſtitutional demeanour, he is but following the footſteps of his immortal father; whoſe MAIDEN SPEECH, on the 29th of April 1736, was a juſt eulogy on his preſent Majeſty's father, the then Prince of Wales, on his recent marriage. As it is by no means inapplicable now to his Royal Highneſs, as well as to his Auguſt Father, if it pleaſe not you, Sir, it ſurely will be highly gratifying to the public at large:

"I am really affected, ſaid Mr. Pitt, with the proſpect of the bleſſings to be derived to my country, from this ſo deſirable and long deſired meaſure, the marriage of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales.

"How great ſoever the joy of the public may be, and very great it certainly is, in receiving this benefit from his Majeſty, it muſt be inferior to that high ſatisfaction which he himſelf enjoys in beſtowing it!

"The marriage of a Prince of Wales, Sir, has at all times been a matter of the higheſt importance to the public welfare, to preſent, and to future, generations! But at no time has it been a more important, a more dear conſideration, than at this day; if a character at once amiable and reſpectable, can embelliſh and even dignify the elevated rank of a Prince of Wales.

"His

" His Royal Highneſs's marriage, is a meaſure which the nation thought could never come too ſoon ; becauſe it brings with it the promiſe of an additional ſtrength to the Proteſtant Succeſſion in his Majeſty's illuſtrious and royal houſe.

" The ſpirit of liberty dictated that ſucceſſion. The ſame ſpirit now rejoices in the proſpect of its being perpetuated to the lateſt poſterity.

" It rejoices in the wiſe and happy choice which his Majeſty has been pleaſed to make, of a Princeſs ſo amiably diſtinguiſhed in herſelf, ſo illuſtrious in the merit of her family.

" Such, Sir, is the marriage for which our moſt humble acknowledgements are due to his Majeſty.

" And may it afford the comfort of ſeeing the Royal Family, numerous as I thank God it is, ſtill growing and riſing up in a third [and now, we hope, in a fifth] generation !

" A Family, Sir, which I moſt ſincerely wiſh may be as immortal as thoſe liberties and that conſtitution it came to maintain!"

This being the opinion of one of the greateſt and beſt of men who ever lived, that the marriage of a Prince of Wales has at all times been a matter of the higheſt importance to the public welfare, to preſent, and to future generations! I ſhall no longer dwell upon the unjuſtifiable and ungrateful conduct of you and your reforming connections to his Royal Highneſs

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on ſuch an event; but point out the liberality of Mr. Pitt, and likewiſe of Mr. Dundas, to that illuſtrious Prince whom you would exult in driving into exile! A Prince whoſe ſteady friends cannot help pointing to many of you this applicable ſpeech:

" ——— Who can call him friend
" That dips in the ſame diſh? For to my knowing,
" *Timon* has been to this man as a father,
" And kept his credit with his bounteous purſe:
" Supported his eſtate. Nay, Timon's money
" Has paid his men their wages. He ne'er drinks,
" But Timon's ſilver treads upon his lip!
" And yet, Oh ſee the monſtrouſneſs of man,
" When he looks out in an ungrateful ſhape!"

How different has Mr. Pitt behaved to his Royal Highneſs from what the republican herd of reformers have done! Inſtead of degrading and ruinous retrenchments, Mr. Pitt properly propoſed to grant, as well as reſerve, ſuch a ſplendid and magnificent income, as became the dignity of a great, powerful, and wealthy empire to allow to the Heir Apparent of the Crown.

It was Mr. Pitt's wiſh to have no baſe niggardly retroſpect, when his Royal Highneſs had entered into the ſacred bond of marriage, on the happy iſſue of which the preſent and the future generation were ſo deeply intereſted. He propoſed to grant his Royal Highneſs, though confeſſedly not an equivalent in-

deed, to what his Royal Grandfather enjoyed, at leaſt a greater ſum. He wiſhed to ſet apart a certain portion of that ſum which the liberality of parliament might grant, to liquidate gradually his debts, without ſuffering any great diminution of his ſplendour, and none of his dignity. He did not wiſh to make retirement an involuntrary conſtraint, to brood over the ingratitude and baſeneſs of man! but to make it a voluntary and elegant pleaſure: That a ſuſceptible mind might reflect in the boſom of his family, with a calm and benignant freedom, and not with a compulſory moroſeneſs, ending in a rooted miſanthropy!

He knew too well how to ſet a juſt national value on the future felicity of the Prince, in which that of the People was ſo deeply interwoven! He aimed at enabling him to remove all clogs and embarraſſments from his mind, in his new and laudable ſtate. And he owned that it could not be effectually done, either to the ſatisfaction of the creditors, or to the eaſe and comfort of their Royal Highneſſes, or with any view to certainty, except by enabling him, through the ſanction of Parliament, to allot out of the income ſo granted, a certain part; ſo that the remainder would ſtill ſupport the ſplendour of the Heir Apparent to the throne of Great Britain!

The Conſtitution, Sir, will never permit that a Prince of Wales ſhould be living in this country *incog.* whatever you may hope. Nor will we ſuf-

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fer him to be driven to any cheap country in Europe for ten years, or one year, to gratify the malevolence of any republican faction on earth!

While the diſcerning part of the kingdom applaud the miniſter's conduct, the people at large are beginning to open their eyes to the true and real views of certain political characters, as to their unmanly and illiberal treatment of their future Sovereign. Certain men would wiſh to make the Crown, as Junius once ſaid, not fit for a gentleman to wear. But as their arts are detected, it would be treaſon to the conſtitution, not to expoſe them naked to the indignation of a much inſulted Prince, and a much abuſed Public!

Would ſuch a retrenchment as you propoſed, ſaid Mr. Pitt, prepare him for the throne of theſe realms, to which, in the fulneſs of time, he may be one day called? Shall we, by taking no notice of his Royal Highneſs's incumbrances, deprive him of future dignity, credit, and happineſs? Whatever had happened, continued he, they had a common intereſt in *looking forward!* They had an intereſt in maintaining the character and the dignity of the Prince of Wales, as a branch of that houſe!

Beſides, they would likewiſe do well to reflect, that in the iſſue of this deciſion, were involved the credit of the hereditary monarchy, and conſequently the ſafety of the country!

In making future proviſion, continued Mr. Pitt, let us not preſent miſery and diſcredit, which would deſtroy ſplendour; and leave the Prince ſubject to daily mortifications. Let us, he added, nobly heal the misfortune; and however we may lament the paſt, let us, with the loyalty of patriotiſm, and the patriotiſm of loyalty, look forward with hope and confidence to the future!

As a ſolid and permanent eſtabliſhment, according to Mr. Pitt, and every man of impartial ſenſibility, was a ſecurity to the peace and tranquility of the kingdom, Parliament will neither neglect that buſineſs, nor will they diminiſh any other ſplendour than that of the little, dirty malignity of your own vindictive eye; which, if not ſo waſpiſhly ruddy as Robeſpierre's, is certainly far leſs ignoble than Fayette's.

The truth is, that having no talents to diſtinguiſh yourſelf as a reforming merchant, that had many ſhips in the Seine; or a wholeſale dealer in this country upon your own bottom; you are content to retail in the Commons, or ſell by commiſſion, all thoſe damaged goods that no other pedlar in politics has the effrontery to bring to market!

Having touched upon Mr. Pitt's conduct, Sir, let us ſlightly add to it ſome of the manly and clear remarks of Mr. Dundas, on the ſubject of the Prince's affairs.

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There is what we call ſuch a common ſenſe view of the objections in that gentleman's firſt ſpeech, that it muſt not be paſſed over. He, on the 1ſt of June, among other matters, remarked, that if Parliament ſhould vote the larger ſum, without any notice of the debts, they would vote a large ſum for the eaſe and comfort of his Royal Highneſs, *but which eaſe and comfort he never would obtain!* For, if Parliament did not come to his aid, by appropriating a large ſhare of the eſtabliſhment to the payment of his debts; it muſt be evident, that from the natural bent there is in mankind to take care of their own intereſts, his Royal Highneſs's creditors would apply to the law for redreſs; and he would be plunged into a ſcene of the moſt dreadful and continual diſtreſs and inſult! It was therefore abſolutely neceſſary that proviſion ſhould be made for paying the debts out of the ſum allotted for the eſtabliſhment.

Beſides, it was impoſſible for the Houſe to refuſe to comply with the requeſt of the Prince of Wales, to apply his income in ſuch a manner, by legiſlative regulations, as would be moſt conducive to the dignity of his ſtation, his perſonal comfort, and the ſecurity of his creditors.

Mr. Dundas, in giving this complete, though brief view of the chief point at iſſue, ſaid more to the purpoſe, in a few minutes, than you could do

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in as many hours. Firmneſs, depth, perſpicuity, and candour, appear to be that gentleman's forte. Spleen, preſumption, and triteneſs, aided by a pert and verboſe confuſion, is yours. You clothe common place in a tinſelled novelty; while your page, Reform, walks by your ſide, as a convenient drab. Sometimes you turn the poor devil off, and ſometimes you are all flattery and fondneſs. During this ſeſſion, the craving jade has been ſent adrift; and now you are going to take her into high keep in the country, during the receſs, that ſhe may be plump, attractive, ſaucy, and vociferous in town next winter, ſhould it ſuit your conveniency then, Sir, to ſport her figure again in St. Stephen's chapel.

Mr. Anſtruther, too, was very happy and pointed on the occaſion. In what related to the ſplendour and dignity of the Heir Apparent, reſpecting the kingdom, he ſaid, the public were much intereſted —HIS DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE WERE PART OF THEIR CHARACTER, AND CONSEQUENTLY A PART OF THEIR RIGHTS!

I never heard any point, Sir, more neatly and ſtrongly given than this. You might twiſt, ramify, or ſhiver your fragile ideas about the Poor and Reform, or rather the poor reformers, for a twelvemonth, without indulging us with a combination ſo nervous or ſo juſt.

It is not without real regret, however, that I have all this winter perceived a fixed plan among the reformers, to ſully the reputation of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales. This aſſaſſination of his fame commenced, whenever a certain ſeparation took place, and the idea of his marriage was divulged. Slander walked abroad, at the very moment that ſhe ſhould have ſkulked into her den. A Jacobin preſs was let looſe upon that illuſtrious name in every diverſified form. At length pamphlets appeared; and the common ſhore of the diurnal prints was carefully raked for a dozen years back, to collect all the filth which had been thrown in during that period, and expoſe it in one heap to the public view.

In the front of this maſs of malevolence, Sir, it is reported that another was thrown up by an old pioneer, who had run many *miles* throughout the rancour of his brain, to gather all the ſlander that has been heaped up by malice againſt imprudent youth. It is rank and bitter, like the groſs ſoil on which it was gleaned; and has certainly ſerved to manure ſome reformers minds, in raiſing up every additional noxious weed that can over-run Royalty.

And that this common-place invective, Sir, might be put in a greater ſtate of requiſition, among thoſe who exult at any obloquy which is levelled at the

Royal

Royal Family, the author is ſaid to have ſat down, with much ſtoic tranquility, and given himſelf a very friendly dreſſing, by Obſervations on his own Letter! Thus Mr. Blackball writes a Grub Street epiſtle againſt his Royal Highneſs; and, Proteus-like, changing himſelf to Mr. Whitewaſh, he iſſues a Stone-cutter Street or Long Lane anathema againſt his own work! That thus, between his two battle-door pamphlets, he may the more ſkilfully keep up and bandy about the ſhuttle cock of diſaffected abuſe.

But, Sir, neither your oratorical ſpleen, nor any ſuch ſcribbling malevolence, can ever wound the illuſtrious Heir Apparent, for a foible, that is generally more the effects of an over-generous heart, than ſpringing from any vicious propenſity.

When we conſider the time too, as well as the manner of theſe attacks, it is almoſt unaccountable to imagine how the moſt refined malignity can find a pretext for their unjuſtifiable ſlander!

The immediate ſucceſſor to the throne, after a courſe of gaiety, which is common to almoſt all youth, invites an accompliſhed Princeſs over to become his conſort, by the unanimous conſent of the King, the Parliament, and the country. Both Houſes, as well as the whole kingdom, ſtand pledged, by their Addreſſes, to make a ſuitable proviſion for the youthful couple. The embarraſſments

raſſments of his Royal Highneſs were univerſally known, previous to their nuptials; but their magnitude trebled, by the breath of ſlanderous rumour. It is beyond the logic of any man, therefore, but a reformer, to point out how Parliament could make a ſuitable proviſion for the royal pair, and, at the ſame time, deny taking any notice of the debts of his Royal Highneſs!

Not to comply with its aid, therefore, in liquidating theſe, would be, in fact, inveigling an accompliſhed Princeſs to leave her Father's Court, that ſhe might ruſticate here in ſome ſequeſtered ſpot, as the wife of a private nobleman, inſtead of being the Royal Conſort of the Heir Apparent of Great-Britain!

Did the ſenate of a great empire ſend for a young and lovely Princeſs, only to have her ears ſtunned by creditors, and her eyes diſmayed by want and bankruptcy? Were they united only for mutual miſery, by ſtripping them of that dignity and ſplendour which their rank demands, and which would be ſhaking the beſt jewels from the Crown, not to allow? If they were not to free him from all incumbrances at marriage, it would not only ſtain the character of the country, but be the means, perhaps, of deſtroying the monarchy!

It was very properly obſerved by Mr. Pitt, Sir, that all were intereſted in ſupporting the ſtrength

and ſplendour of the throne, and conſequently all the branches of the Royal Family. Much more, that of the Heir Apparent on his marriage, to continue that Royal Family! *Such a proviſion*, he wiſely added, *was not a waſte, but a wiſe application of the public money for the public advantage!*

Mr. Fox, however, in order to induce the Houſe to exile his Royal Highneſs upon 60,000l. per annum, advanced a very ſtrange poſition; that marriage, in the lower ranks, makes a great difference in the expence, but not in any thing like the ſame proportion among the higher ranks!

The contrary is well known to be the fact. The wives as well as the children of the lower, and even middle claſſes of life, often aid the huſband; and, therefore, marriage is generally an acquiſition among thoſe claſſes. But it is ſeldom or never any other acquiſition, in the higher ranks, than to continue the ſpecies; and to give an air of gaiety and faſhion to the circles of poliſhed life, at a great expence, which, while it civilizes the manners, is often very beneficial to trade.

I appeal to you, Sir, (as Mr. Fox is a bachelor) for the truth of this; in looking over, ſince your marriage, your additional expences in dreſs, equipage, attendants, card-money, &c. But your friend certainly, with more prudence, enjoys the intercourſe between the ſexes now at a much cheaper rate.

In

In ſpeaking of the Royal Family, Mr. Pitt properly obſerved, that in our conſtitution the centre was Monarchy; but this Mr. Fox denied. Is not the Crown the centre about which all men rally? In France, indeed, the anarchy turns round in a circle, without any central point to fix its motion; which will be the cauſe of revolution following revolution, and maſſacre following maſſacre, until ſome ſuch central point is ſettled, acknowledged, and vigorouſly ſupported. But if in England the Crown be not the ſtandard or central fixed point round which the Lords, the Commons, and the People move, watch, and rally; what other centre can Mr. Fox or you give to the conſtitution; unleſs, indeed, by making the Reformers the centre! But as the planets would fall into confuſion and chaos, were it not for their common centre the ſun; ſo would the different conſtitutional bodies fall, without the ſun of Majeſty, which keeps all in their due orbits; and ſo admirably ſupports the harmony of our political ſpheres, in defiance of the threatening aſpects of all the fiery and erratic comets of Reform!

If the Heir-Apparent and his Royal Conſort, Sir, were not to be exonerated from all incumbrances on their marriage, I do not know a more cruel act that could be committed, not to thoſe perſonages alone, but to the conſtitution. If once the reformers were to be permitted to ſend Princes and Princeſſes of

Wales *incog.* to the interior, they might ſnatch at every opportunity to ſend likewiſe Kings and Queens of England! Nay, in their rage for royal *incog.* for falſe titles, for falſe eſtabliſhments, and falſe ſplendour, they might not overlook, perhaps, the two Houſes of Parliament, and even the Property of the country! Therefore, one or two of the people of Property that have joined in a hue and cry for a temporary exile, do not conſider that they ſanction an eternal precedent!

It is no excuſe to alledge, in vindication of ſome, that as the general election is not far off, they wiſh by ſuch means to pleaſe conſtituents of a certain deſcription. For, as Mr. Young juſtly obſerved, that the example of France ought to be a warning to Great-Britain, it is hoped, that as the great and immenſe majority of the electors are on the ſide of conſtitutional freedom; they will not ſuffer themſelves, on any account, to be thus far duped, as to become the ſupporters of thoſe, whenever the general election happens, who trim between anarchy and monarchy! For, if ever the conſtitution is to be deſtroyed, it is by theſe parliamentary trimmers, giving the hint, and trimming to the diſaffected without doors; as there is not ſo great a politico-lunatic underſtanding between Halhed and Brothers, as between ſome of thoſe two ſorts of people of ſuch oppoſite deſcriptions!

I do

I do not aſſert, Sir, that you know it. But I only mention it, that you may enquire into it.

You and your abettors, indeed, prove that you are not only hollow friends to his Royal Highneſs, by preſſing to pay his debts ſo ſpeedily as to extinguiſh his ſplendour—but that you act in a ſimilar manner to thoſe very creditors themſelves, for whom you pretend ſo unaccountably to feel! For you would not ſecure their payment by votes for the motion that went to bind parliament to guarantee their liquidation, in caſe of a demiſe! Thus you would neither ſecure the comfort of the Prince, nor allow a proper ſatisfaction to the creditors! Like pettyfogging attornies, that prevent all ſettlement between client and defendant, becauſe their ſordid intereſt directs that no reconciliation ſhould ever take place, but to the ſatisfaction of themſelves!

I have now, Sir, not only diſpaſſionately traced and expoſed your rancorous behaviour on the affairs of his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales; but have, I hope, contributed a little towards ſtemming the tide of reforming prejudice that has been attempted to deluge the kingdom, owing to the juvenile indiſcretions of a very amiable Prince being made a vehicle for the acrimony of the diſaffected. No ſpeeches in parliament have been ſo tinged with illiberality towards Royalty, ſince the debates on the excluſion bill reſpecting

James

James II. when Duke of York. This is a very lamentable truth.

It affords not altogether a pleaſing proſpect, when the princely foible of too great a liberality, ſhould meet with ſuch illiberal animadverſion. When there ſhould be ſuch a clamour raiſed, in an age of the moſt groſs libertiniſm, againſt his Royal Highneſs, for only being miſtaken in the magnitude of his purſe through the extreme capaciouſneſs of his generous heart! When he ſhould undergo nearly as great a parliamentary cenſure, for a too-bountiful diſpoſition only, as James Duke of York experienced, for his violent bigotry to the catholic faith, and his rooted enmity to the liberties of Britain! Is this either wiſe, candid, politic or juſt, in thoſe who really love the monarchial conſtitution? I never was before ſo fully convinced, that French principles have given a ſlight ſhock to certain underſtandings. Although, thank Heaven, the country at large, as well as the great body of parliament, are as free from the deſtructive poiſon, as they loathe the peſtilent inoculators.

There can be no excuſe, Sir, for a youth being ſteeled againſt all becoming ſympathy for the liberal foible of a juvenile Prince? It indicates a narrow mind, an iraſcible diſpoſition, and a very ſuſpicious heart. As for thoſe ſenatorial gentlemen that are ſtricken in years, who have been hoſtile

hoſtile to the emancipation of his Royal Hignneſs from his embarraſſments; he may excuſe them thus, as Timon did his Athenian ſenators:

" Their blood is cak'd, 'tis cold, it ſeldom flows;
" 'Tis lack of kindly warmth they are not kind:
" And nature, as it grows again tow'rd earth,
" Is faſhion'd for the journey, dull and heavy!"

But as to you, Sir, and your aſſociates, I doubt his Royal Highneſs may add too, in the language of Timon,

" ——————————— I perceive
" Man muſt learn now with pity to diſpenſe,
" For POLICY ſits above CONSCIENCE!"

Next to your endeavours to deprive the Prince of his ſplendour, and of the ſame nature, was the plan of Mr. Fox, to diſpoſe of the duchy of Cornwall. This luke-warm friend of prerogative declared, that he wiſhed for the ſale of the crown lands, becauſe he did not think revenues ariſing from land the moſt proper for a ſovereign; as they gave him an extenſive influence, which he ſhould ever guard againſt. Why ſhould not the ſovereign have ſome ſhare of the ſoil, as well as his ſubjects? And why not have an extenſive influence? If he has but a ſmall influence, he will be able to do but very little good, indeed, to his people.: No, Sir: We are not afraid of the influence of the crown, but of the influence

of

of the Reformers, who aim at new-modelling that crown. It is the great and conſtitutional influence of the crown, aided by the energy of the people, that has prevented this country from being deſtroyed by the Gallic principles of ſanguinary reform. For the earth can as well exiſt without the genial influence of the ſun, as the conſtitution of Great Britain without the ſalutary influence of the monarch. But ſome of the Reformers, perhaps, would not be very ſorry to ſee our preſent ſovereign in a ſimilar ſtate to that of King John, who was ſurnamed *Lackland.* They would wiſh a Magna Charta of ſuch an indefinite extent, that every liberty might be enjoyed, without any property being ſecured.

I do not, however, charge your plan of reform, Sir, as extending ſo far. But I ſhall only obſerve, that as any individual blockhead, incendiary, or lunatic, may congregate a mixed aſſembly, though none but a ſtrong force can pretend to diſperſe it; ſo in like manner every true friend to the conſtitution, ſhould be very cautious, at this moment in not encouraging the mind of the maſs, to congregate into any point of irritability or diſreſpect, towards any of the branches of the illuſtrious Royal Family upon the throne; as it tends to endanger, in the next age, if not in this, that indiſpenſible bond of loyalty and attachment to a race, who have been the patriot and the vigilant guardians of the liberties of

Great

Great Britain, during the greateſt part of the preſent century.

It was juſtly obſerved by Mr. Dundas, that the Prince of Wales is the peculiar care of the people. As Heir Apparent he is their property and their care. It is hoped, therefore, that no gentleman within or without the walls of parliament, will perſiſt in diminiſhing the value of that property, or in dimming its luſtre. For a jeweller may as well flaw a diamond, to increaſe its radiance and intrinſic worth, as certain perſons pretend, by the breath of calumnious invective, to give an additional brilliancy to his Royal Highneſs's character.

However dearly purchaſed to himſelf may be his knowledge of mankind, there cannot, perhaps, a greater bleſſing befal him, for his future tranquility, and the kingdom's happineſs, than to have a perfect comprehenſion of the views and the arts of thoſe political trickſters, that formerly baſked in the ſunſhine of his friendſhip; and who now ſo baſely defame him, by faint praiſe, by hollow ſympathy, or by open ſlander! Well may he exclaim, with Timon,

" ——————— But myſelf,
" Who had the world as my confectionary!
" The mouths, the tongues, the eyes, the hearts of men
" At duty, more than I could frame employments;
" That numberleſs upon me ſtuck, as leaves
" Do on the oak; have with one winter's bruſh

" Fall'n from their boughs, and left me open, bare
" For ev'ry ſtorm that blows. *I to bear this,*
" *That never knew but better, is ſome burden!*"

It is, indeed, a burden! But as his Royal Highneſs, by his meſſage, has ſhewn a great mind, as well as by his actions, a liberal diſpoſition; he has mental ſtrength ſufficient to bear up againſt all unjuſt obloquy, all ungrateful remark! And ſpurn at that with contempt, which he cannot eye but with indignation.

What treatment he may receive from ſome perſons in another Houſe, may not be altogether calculated. But it is to be hoped that there, his lukewarm ſupporters will be but very few; and his real friends many and zealous. It is hoped, too, that a certain duke, if Junius be ſomewhat forgotten, will not appear with ſo lowering and threatning an aſpect as he did on a former day; when he grumbled about miniſterial incapacity, and of giving his aſſent or diſſent, in exonerating his Royal Highneſs, without conſidering whether he gave offence to that Houſe, to the nation, or *elſewhere!* Ill-natured, cenſorious people might apply, perhaps, the following paſſage in Timon to that ſpeech of his Grace. I leave it to you, Sir, to judge whether it be the leaſt applicable:

" The devil knew not what he did, when he made man *politic.*
" He croſs'd himſelf by't. And I cannot think but in the end
" the

" the villanies of man will ſet him clear. How fairly this lord
" ſtrives to appear foul? Takes virtuous copies to be wicked:
" like thoſe that under hot, ardent zeal, would ſet whole realms
" on fire. Of ſuch a nature is his *politic love!*"

But, to conclude. Nothing could be more neceſſary than a Call of the Houſe, on the queſtion of his Royal Highneſs's affairs; as, however it may be a queſtion of party among you and your friends; yet, with the great body of parliament, and with the loyal people at large, it is a queſtion of *conſtitution!* It almoſt amounts to this — " Whether or not the monarchy is to be continued in that neceſſary and indiſpenſible ſplendour," as Mr. Fox ſaid, " in which all delight!" It is almoſt as momentous as deciding upon French principles. For ſhould the ſplendour of royalty be agreed on to be diminiſhed, it might come to a queſtion in future, whether or not it ought to be entirely extinguiſhed! Therefore, when Mr. Fox wiſhed to decide on the debts, by every member giving his vote, it was not altogether improper; were it not that the mode was borrowed from a very horrid precedent of the Convention, in regard to the life of Louis!

On ſome future day, perhaps, I may touch again upon the parliamentary occurrences that may yet ariſe this ſeſſion, upon the ſubject of his Royal

Highneſs's affairs. In the mean time, I have no doubt but that Parliament will ſolemnly, wiſely, and loyally weigh the buſineſs; ſo as not to permit it to be a queſtion between the *creditors* and the *conſtitution!* For although their credits originated in aiding the ſplendour of royalty, the policy of the country muſt not ſuffer their demands only to be ſatisfied by its hazardous and inglorious diminution!

Truſting that this letter ſhall work ſome reformation even upon you, Sir, although you are a reformer; for the preſent I take my leave, with recommending to your ſerious conſideration, and to that of the Commons Houſe of Parliament, on the buſineſs of to-morrow, what Mr. Pitt ſo pointedly, elegantly, and juſtly recommended on Friday laſt: His words were:

" The queſtion was, Whether upon a feeling and
" candid conſideration, the Houſe ſhould make
" that proviſion for his Royal Highneſs and his
" Illuſtrious Conſort, that would be neceſſary for
" their rank, ſtation, and dignity? Whether they
" ſhould, under any pretence of a ſpecious libe-
" rality, deprive their Royal Highneſſes of the
" comforts and enjoyments of life; or confer upon
" them

" them freely, and with the generoſity becoming
" the character of the Britiſh nation, an ample,
" eaſy, and dignified eſtabliſhment.

" This, he believed, was the only wiſe and pro-
" vident means which could be adopted towards
" the accompliſhment of ſo beneficial and politic
" an object. Gentlemen would diveſt themſelves,
" he hoped, of all conſiderations which, on too
" narrow a ſcale, would but lead to an unjuſt,
" however apparently wiſe, concluſion.

" They would keep before their eyes that they
" were providing for the Heir Apparent of the
" Crown; for an eſſential and vital part of the
" conſtitution: And whatever diſorders and evils
" were ſuggeſted by gentlemen, to ariſe from any
" abuſes, which the branches of royal houſes had
" created, they would the more vigorouſly oppoſe
" thoſe abuſes, by diverting them from the perſons
" to whom they might have unfortunately attached
" themſelves: and, by giving a new direction, as
well

" well as a purer courſe, to the expenditure of the
" Prince, they would enſure, in the Safety of his
" Perſon, the General Conſervation of the State!"

JUNE 7th, 1795.

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